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Duxbury Clipper

## Residents Say Market Closing is Mixed Bag

By KEITH L. MARTIN

One week after news broke that the Grand Union was closing, Duxbury citizens are mixed in their emotions on the departing supermarket.

Officials from GU Markets, which operate several locations in Massachusetts, have yet to say exactly why the store is closing. Calls in to Carl Wistreich, senior vice president and deputy general counsel for GU Markets and their parent company, C&S Wholesale Grocers, went unreturned.

On Friday, Wistreich's secretary said "the reason he has-

n't called back is because he has nothing to say yet."

Inquiries to store managers at Grand Union locations in South Yarmouth, Provincetown and Sandwich on the status of their stores were all referred to corporate headquarters.

It seems GU Markets also had nothing to say to Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, their landlord at the former A&P Plaza.

On Thursday, Property Manager Bill Kaul said he hadn't heard about the closure

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While disappointed the Grand Union is closing, shoppers Dick Locke (left) and Chris Coakley (right) hope another grocery store will fill the void.

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had calls in to GU Markets to answer his own questions.

Kaull said he would not comment on the market's lease with the company or any arrangements to move out of the plaza.

"We were looking forward to a new life [in the old A&P location] and I know people seemed to not be too happy how the A&P was running, but we had no control over [the new tenant]," he said.

He added that Grand Union was handed to the landlord in the A&P buyout and that most rental situations allow for companies to be sold to new ownership in this manner. Since this was a swap of grocery stores, there was little control by his agency to veto the move.

As for a new tenant for the spot, Kaull refused to speculate.

"I don't want to bury the body before it's dead, so to speak," he said.

Local residents, however, have begun the mourning process with some ready to move on.

Jack Hill of Washington St. said that he also goes to other supermarkets in Kingston, but stops by the store once a week for certain items. In recent times, however, he's noticed a decline in the store's operations.

"It seemed like the people who ran it stopped caring about a month ago," said Hill. "They didn't seem to be on top of things."

Betty Stenstrom of Depot St. said that while the store was a great local stop for things like bread and milk, hopefully something better will come along.

"[Grand Union] is more expensive and I can't tell you how many times I got milk that was sour," she said. "I liked the A&P better believe it or not."

Both Hill and Stenstrom said they would like to see a specialty food store like Bread and Circus or Trader Joe's move into the plaza.

One woman who wanted to remain anonymous said that the produce, service and quality of food with expiration dates was poor and "it was a

wonder they've lasted this long."

Others, however, say they will miss the convenience of shopping at Grand Union and are sad to see the market go.

Dick Locke of Summer St. said he shops there every day and will miss coming to the store.

"It's a tragedy," he said. "I feel the town really needs a store and people here will be disappointed when it is gone."

Locke's friend, Chris Coakley of Lincoln St. added that she hopes another grocery store fills the void to continue the tradition started by A&P.

"It's an institution, so it's kind of sad to see it go," she said.

Duxburyite Dave Breck was also feeling nostalgic and said in addition to occasionally shopping at the Grand Union, he worked at the A&P in 1970.

"We'll lose the convenience of having a store right down the street, but I'm sure everyone will get over it," he said. "It has memories for me, but things change."

Perhaps those most affected by the change, however, are residents of Duxborough Village, conveniently located behind the supermarket.

Resident Catherine Grant said many elderly residents use a ramp that goes right into the parking lot to get the groceries they need when they can. By losing the market, a lot of people will lose this easy access so she hopes another grocery store moves in soon.

Lois Hunt, who also lives at Duxborough Village, said she told store managers about

how the closure would affect residents, who like her don't drive anymore.

"All of the residents feel

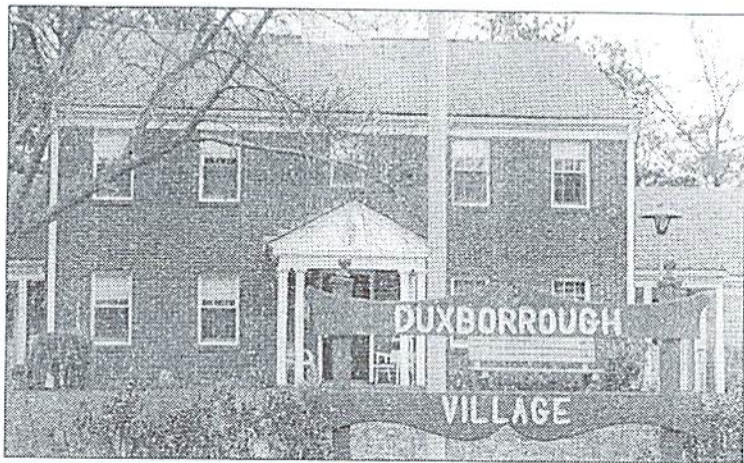
the same way [about the closure]," she said. "A lot of us go there and don't know what they will do without it."

Hunt's neighbor, Claudia Sullivan, said she liked shopping at the Grand Union and felt the new management made several improvements on the old A&P. Since she also does not drive, she often relies on a senior bus to get around for things but that often breaks down.

With the Grand Union moving out, residents like her will lose a valuable asset in their own backyard.

"It will have a big impact on us definitely," said Sullivan. "[A grocery store] is really necessary here."





Residents of Duxborough Village may be the most affected by the loss of Grand Union. Many of its residents don't drive and often walk to the store for groceries.